

THE TECH

VOL. XXXII. NO. 51

BOSTON, MASS., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1912

PRICE TWO CENTS

"WAS IST LOS?"



One more day has gone by and we are no nearer the solution of the unanswered mystery, "Was Ist Los?" than before. We have it on pretty good authority, however, that tomorrow we are going to have a little real information published in this column relative to this exciting episode. Anyone who is interested in the answer to the oft repeated question, "Was Ist Los December 19th?" had better watch this space. Don't forget the date, DECEMBER 19TH.

We met a young man the other day who says that he knows what it is all about. What do you think that he said? That there were going to be some fireworks on the campus on the evening of December 19th to celebrate something. That may be it, but we have our doubts. It may be to celebrate our stupendous victory in securing from the Faculty the enormous and unheard-of Christmas vacation of five whole days. Count them, gentlemen, count them, five whole days!

We see by the columns of THE TECH that the Bursar has offered a huge reward for the solution of the mystery. It would seem that this ought to stimulate the multitude to get the dope on this matter. Well, gentlemen, the only way to win that reward is to read this space every day, for here it is that the news will be published as fast as it comes in from the firing line. All we know today is that there is something doing on December 19th, and that it is highly advisable to make no other arrangements for that date, because to miss the answer to "Was Ist Los?" would be to miss half the joy of life.

1914 CLASS PICTURES.

Orders Must be in by Wednesday
—Errors in Orders Received.

At the 1914 Class banquet about a dozen men gave their names as desiring class pictures. They neglected to specify, however, which of the pictures they wanted. There are four different pictures, and when placing orders men should signify which picture is wanted.

There will be someone in the Union on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, from 1.30 to 2 P. M., to take all further orders for pictures and to receive corrections on the orders given at the class dinner. As absolutely no orders will be taken after Thursday, it is important that everyone desiring a picture hand in their order before this time. A deposit will be required on all orders before they will be filed with the photographer. This deposit, which will be fifty cents, should be paid at the time the order is taken. The price of the pictures is one dollar.

SHOW RECEIVES MANY EXCELLENT LYRICS

Names of Successful Writer to be Announced When Music Competition Starts.

The lyric competition for Tech Show, 1913, closed last Saturday. The competition was very successful from the authors' point of view, many very good lyrics having been handed in.

The wording of a few of the songs will have to be changed and re-written to some extent before they will be ready for publication. The names of the successful writers have not yet been announced for this reason. This announcement will be made, however, by the end of next week.

The music competition will start next Monday, one week from yesterday, December 16th, and will run for a few days after the Christmas holidays. This length of time will afford the composers an opportunity of doing some very good work during the vacation. Now is the chance for any man who is interested in music to write an Institute song, according to Dean Burton's suggestions, which will be remembered and sung long after his graduation.

The lyrics may be obtained at the Tech Show office on next Monday afternoon, and it is hoped that many men will avail themselves of this opportunity and that they will do their best to thus advance the work of the Show and make it the most successful one ever given by the Institute.

CIVILS TO DINE.

Naval Officer to Talk at Big Dinner in Union Thursday.

On Thursday, December 12th, at 6.30 P. M., the Civil Engineering Society will hold its first dinner of the year at the Union. The speaker, Mr. R. E. Backenhus, is a Tech man, and is at present a civil engineer in the United States Navy. He has seen much foreign service, in fact has recently returned from the Philippine Islands to his present station at the Charlestown Navy Yard. It is assured that Mr. Backenhus will be able to give the members of the society some very interesting information concerning the character and customs of the various foreign countries through which he has traveled, in addition to telling them of the strictly engineering features of his experience.

The officers of the society assert that the meeting will be well worth attending, and that the dinner will start promptly at the time stated, so that it will not be necessary to keep any of the men too late. Tickets are sold at the rate of fifty cents each, and may be obtained from any of the following men: J. J. Strachan, M. E. Langley, C. W. Brett, A. G. Ranney, P. E. Morrill and H. S. MacLellan.

EPISCOPALIANS MEET.

The second of a series of weekly meetings, conducted by the Brotherhood of St. Andrews, will be held at Trinity House, 22 St. James avenue, at 7.15 this evening. Rev. Edwin H. van Etten, second assistant rector of Trinity Church, will conduct a pre-Christmas discussion. All Episcopalians are invited to be present.

CIVIL SOCIETY TRIP PROVES INTERESTING

Large Number of Men Are Shown Partially Finished Subway.

Promptly at 2 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, a large number of men started from the steps of the Walker Building to make the trip through the new Boylston street subway. The engineer who took charge of the trip expected to have a party of only about fifteen or twenty men, but it actually contained nearly ten times that number, on account of the publicity given to the fact that everyone was welcome, whether or not members of the Civil Engineering Society. The subway was entered at the west end and from there the men were taken east through as much of it as conditions would allow.

This new subway will, when completed, start from the Back Bay Fens, run parallel to the Boston and Albany tracks to Boylston street, and then follow under the latter street until the terminus under the present Tremont street subway is reached. The exact location of this terminus has not been decided as yet.

Construction work is now being carried on between the Fens and the Public Library, the re-enforced concrete walls and roof being already completed for most of this distance. The tunnel is practically all below water level and must resist hydrostatic pressure of from eight to fifteen feet. Below, the method of construction is described.

First, trenches only a few feet wide are excavated and the molds for the walls laid in them. Then the walls, which average about thirty-two inches in thickness, are cast, and, as soon as possible, are used for supporting the beams upon which the street and surface tracks rest. After making shallow excavations just below the street level the roof is cast in suitably shaped molds, supported by staging built against the inside of the walls, and finally the remaining core of earth is taken out, a three-foot concrete floor constructed and the tracks laid on nineteen inches of ballast. The permanent street pavement is replaced after the space above the subway roof has been filled in.

The chief difficulty encountered at present is at the point where the subway runs under the police station on (Continued on Page 2.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

All activities represented on the Finance Committee that are not provided with account books may get them by calling at the Cage.

EDITORIAL CONTEST.

The next editorial in the Pi Delta Epsilon contest will be due Thursday night at 5 o'clock, at the Cage. It may be on any subject the candidates desire. With one more editorial after this the contest will be completed. The subject for the last will be announced next Friday morning.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY WILL VISIT BREWERY

To See Beer Making Process at Close Range on Trip Thursday.

The Biological Society promises something unique for its members in the way of trips in the one that they have planned for this Thursday afternoon. They are to visit a brewery in Roxbury as the guest of its head. Not only will the party be shown over the works and have everything explained to them, but President Tolman announces that there is something to come afterwards just for Biologicals. After the trip the men are to remain as guests of Mr. Reuter, the head of the brewery, and they will have a free—the Wednesday issue of THE TECH will have the complete details, but it has been said that there will be something worth while staying for.

Beer making, one of the largest industrial pursuits, is based almost entirely on Biological processes, so whether any fellow approves of beer as a beverage or not it will certainly be very instructive and not a little profitable for him to see something of the manner of its manufacture. The men are fortunate in having a brewery nearby, and through the efforts of the president of the Biological Society arrangements have been made whereby all those interested in this industry may have an opportunity of viewing the process at close range. The men will start some time around 4 P. M. Thursday, the exact time and place to be announced later in these columns.

The special treat to be given the men in connection with the trip is reserved for members of the Biological Society only. To take advantage of it anybody in Courses XI, VII and V, Option 3, can join before Thursday by paying their dues of only fifty cents. Watch THE TECH for further details concerning this trip and the special feature that is to be thrown in with it.

SOPHOMORE BASKETBALL.

There will be basketball practice for the Sophomores Tuesday at 5 o'clock. A full attendance is desired as this will be the last practice before the game with Rockland on Friday. Among those out for the team are Bauer, Wilson, Quirk, Dalton, Newman, Massuchi, Parsons, Pinkham and Morse. There seems to be very good material for a team, but in order that the team may be successful, the manager wants all members to attend regularly.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Boston and vicinity: Tuesday fair and warmer; moderate southwest winds.

CALENDAR.

Tuesday, December 10, 1912.
5.00—Sophomore Basketball Practice.

8.15—David Carb's "The Voice of the People"—Brattle Hall.

Wednesday, December 11, 1912.
8.00—Appalachian Mountain Club Lecture—Huntington Hall.

THE TECH

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1912

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

At the All-Technology dinner, last Saturday night, a constitution for the government of the actions of the Institute Committee was read and submitted to the students of the Institution for approval and adoption. Heretofore the actions of the committee have had to be based solely on precedent, and the power delegated to them was not definitely stated nor limited. The committee could, if they desired, issue most autocratic and oppressive rules which the student body was compelled to obey. On the other hand, when some new and important decision was to be made, they had nothing to guide them with respect to their powers in the matter.

For these reasons it was thought best to have all the powers which the committee had been accustomed to use set forth in definite form, so the new constitution was drawn up. It is now up to the student body as a whole either to accept or reject this document. The committee desires that it be given most thoughtful consideration by every man, and we should all endeavor to criticize it closely, for it is only in this way can the best interests of the Institute and the committee be served.

This constitution, unlike one proposed several years ago, does not give the committee absolutely free reign. Any ruling of the committee distasteful to the students as a whole may be, upon petition of fifty students, be presented to the whole school for ratification or rejection. Thus there is always a check on the committee corresponding to the referendum in the political world. This provision makes the new constitution absolutely fair to all, and, in our opinion, the adoption of the document will redound with benefits to Technology.

COMMUNICATION.

Editor of THE TECH.

One of our professors has just called my attention to a communication printed in a recent issue of your paper, to which my name is attached. In this article language is used which I am known never to indulge in, and I would like to know if it is your custom to print articles without knowing that the signature appended is genuine. It would seem as though my signature appears often enough here at the Institute to be well known. It is bad enough to have sentiments credited to one that have never been expressed, but when such an action causes smiles to appear on the face of every student one meets it becomes too embarrassing for pleasure. I wish to express most emphatically my disapprobation of your action and to inquire in all earnestness, "Was I lost?"

F. H. Rand.

COMMITTEE MEETS.

Inst. Com. Elects Body of Six to Co-operate With Faculty.

At the Institute Committee meeting, last night, the most important business transacted was the election of a student committee to co-operate with the Faculty Committee on the matter of the Walker Memorial. Every name proposed was taken up separately and debated upon, so the men elected are surely the best to be obtained for this committee. Those elected are: L. C. Hart, '13; G. R. Thayer, '13; S. H. Taylor, '14; T. H. Guething, '14; C. P. Fiske, '14; T. L. Chase, '14. It was originally intended to have only five on the committee, but the last two were tied for fifth place, so the number was changed to six.

The Point System Committee has been very desirous of having the question of commuting points settled definitely, so this matter was discussed. The committee favored the abolition of all commutation except when the loss of the man would handicap the activity, and this only by unanimous vote of the committee. It was voted that the position of manager of any athletic team should be considered entirely separate from athletics, which prevents a manager from holding any other position, as his points would add up to more than ten.

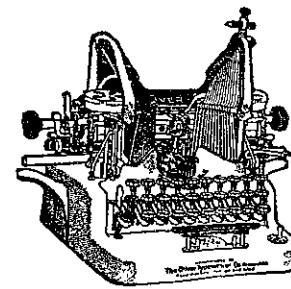
The All-Technology dinner was attended by about 150 men, but as no profit was made by the sale of individual tickets, the burden of the guests' dinners would fall on the Institute Committee to the amount of \$20 to \$30.

SUBWAY INSPECTION.

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3.)
Boylston street. Here the heavy stone wall on the west side of the street must be removed and at the same time the building supported. This is accomplished by removing small portions of the wall, building sections of the tunnel to take their place, and when these have set sufficiently to bear the weight of the building, the remaining parts of the wall are removed. The method employed is simple, but the work must be carried on very slowly. It is at this point also that the two tracks diverge and are separated by a concrete partition, since the cars need greater clearance while rounding the curve into Boylston street.

There will be only two stations, so that very good time can be made from Park street. An emergency exit and a chamber to contain the ventilating fans have been constructed just above the Lenox Hotel, and there will also be a passage from Boylston street to the Massachusetts avenue station.

The most serious problems to be solved in the near future are the construction work through the foundations of the Boston Cab Company's building at the corner of Massachusetts avenue and Newbury street, and successfully supporting the church tower opposite the Public Library. The latter is reported to be as much as three feet out of plumb, so even slightly disturbing its foundations may have a disastrous effect. The contract for this part of the work is to be awarded some time next week. The last of the party broke up at 3:30. Most of the men abandoned the trip not long after they had started, making the party more easy to handle. Those who "stuck by it" to the end, however, went away feeling that they were well repaid for their pains, and they wish to extend their thanks to the engineer who took them through.



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FACULTY NOTICE.

The exercises of the Institute will be suspended during Christmas week, December 23rd to 28th, inclusive.

A. L. MERRILL,
(tf) Secretary.

Dancing Parties every Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Lundin Gymnasium, 44 St. Botolph street, Boston. Refined patronage.

(Tues-Fri)

SOPHOMORE HOCKEY.

Meeting of Men Out for Class Team in Union Thursday.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Class of 1915 it was decided to have a hockey team to represent the Sophomore Class. R. L. Fletcher was appointed to take charge of the matter and make all arrangements.

All Sophomores who have the slightest knowledge of the game are requested to show up in the Union on Thursday at 1 o'clock. At this meeting a manager and a temporary captain will be chosen. When the hockey team which will represent the Institute this winter was cut to its present form a few Sophomores were dropped, who would form the nucleus of a strong team.

Games will be arranged between the other classes and the "prep" schools. Therefore it is very important that all who wish to come out should be present at the first meeting on Thursday.

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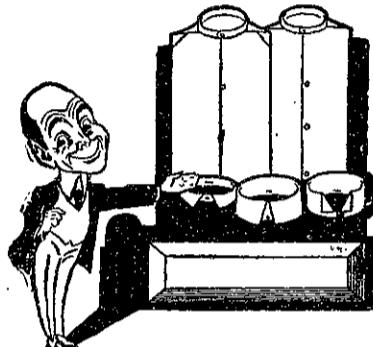
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